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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God almighty, recreate our hearts to love You above all. Rule our lives, creating in us a passion to do Your will. Give our lawmakers renewed strength and resilience to honor You in their work. May they do their best today as an expression of love and gratitude to You. Lord, replace weariness with well-being, anxiety with assurance, and caution with courage.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 9, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 124, S. 1238, Senator REED's student loan bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1238) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following my remarks and those of my Republican counterpart, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Jennifer Dorsey to be U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada. At noon there will be a rollover vote on confirmation of the Dorsey nomination. I would add that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee has asked that we hold that vote open until 12:30 p.m. today because they are having a confirmation hearing on the new Director of the FBI, Mr. Comey. We will do that, and the vote will end at 12:30 p.m. rather than 12:15 p.m. or 12:20 p.m.

Following that vote, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings.

In America, this great country of ours, a quality education is the surest path to the American dream. When I

was a boy, we always looked at that American dream as getting a college education, which, from where I came from, wasn't going to happen very often. Now the American dream is more than just getting an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree. It involves many other occupations, all of the things available in health care now, such as nursing, nursing assistants, all of the technicians, the people who do physical therapy—not physical therapists but people who help doctors do what they need to do. We have programs to become a physician's assistant. There are many programs that are important to be able to fulfill that American dream. There are all different kinds of programs for computer training separate and apart from getting a bachelor's degree. Those programs are extremely important. The reason they are important is we as Americans have decided that with the cost of education skyrocketing as it is, students should get some help, whether they are seeking a degree in engineering or getting into a program to begin some computer training to have jobs they want for the rest of their lives.

College has never been more expensive and further out of reach for American families. That is why it is critical that we keep interest rates low on Federal student loans so more promising students can realize their dream of an education.

Last month Republicans rejected the Democrats' plan to freeze student loan interest rates at current levels for 2 years without adding a penny to the deficit. Because of this obstruction, loan rates doubled on July 1, piling thousands of dollars more on debt that more than 7 million students owe. Republicans are instead pushing a plan to balance the budget on the backs of struggling students. But if either the legislation passed by House Republicans or the plan proposed by Senate Republicans becomes law, student loan rates will more than double over the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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